

May 6, 1948.

Dr. Seymour Cohen,
Dept. Pediatrics,
University of Pennsylvania Medical School,
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Dear Seymour,

Thanks very much for your letter. I should like ~~very~~ much to see your paper. It turns out that in part due to my association here with K.P.Link in the Biochemistry Dept. that I am in the midst of such the same problem-- the hypothetical relationship between galactose, galacturonic acid and l-arabinose. A set of arabinose-negative and xylose-negative mutants were isolated, and I have been waiting for Link to supply me with the uronic acids so that I can test for pentose accumulation from them. Link tells me that Neuberg's old description of glucuronic decarboxylation by bacteria in a horse-meat putrefaction is an artefact due to the formation of ribose from the putrefying muscle, and we hoped to retest it using the mutants. The lack of cross-adaptation between galacturonate and l-arabinose sounds discouraging, but I expect we'll try it anyhow.

I'll check on the galactose-arabinose cross-adaptation. I'm still working with rather crude equipment (e.g. the adaptation tests are merely for "immediate" acid production, as shown by brom-cresol-purple indicator and a few micromoles of phosphate buffer) and it is not impossible that my previous observations are artefacts. But meanwhile, I'd appreciate seeing your paper. Thanks for calling my attention to it.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg